

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPM-01 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MO

SUBJ: ISTIQLAL PARTY CONGRESS

1. ISTIQLAL PARTY HELD ITS 9TH CONFERENCE SEPT. 13-15 WITH 4,000 MEMBERS PRESENT. LAST CONGRESS WAS IN 1967. PARTY ELECTED M'HAMED BOUCETTA AS SECRETARY GENERAL (OFFICE OF PRESIDENT WILL HENCEFORTH BE VACANT OUT OF RESPECT TO ALLAL EL FASSI) AND CHOSE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LARGELY SAME AS ITS PREDECESSOR. IN ADDITION HEAVY GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT VARIOUS OPPOSITION LEADERS, INCLUDING BOUABID AND ALI YATA, FORMER ISTIQLAL PRIME MINISTER AHMED BALAFREJ, AND DELEGATIONS FROM TEN COUNTRIES ATTENDED.

2. BOUCETTA'S LONG OPENING SPEECH AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED STRESSED THEMES "LIBERATION OF NATIONAL TERRITORY, DEMOCRACY, AND EGALITARIANISM". SPECIFIC POINTS WERE: GREATER ROLE FOR YOUTH IN PARTY MATTERS, LAND TO TILLERS, WORKER PARTICIPATION, MORE EDUCATION, ABANDONMENT OF BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAMS, AND RE-ACTIVATION NATIONAL FRONT. BOUCETTA'S SPEECH, WHOSE STUPEFYING LENGTH ASSURED IT A LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION, WAS HARSH INDICTMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN NEARLY ALL AREAS.

3. GOVERNMENT'S GREAT ATTENTION TO CONGRESS NOTABLE. EIGHT
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CABINET MEMBERS, HEADED BY FOREIGN AND CULTURE MINISTERS

ATTENDED, AND SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS GAVE EVENT FRONT-PAGE
TREATMENT THROUGHOUT ITS THREE DAYS. PARTY RESPONDED WITH
FLATTERING REFERENCES TO KING'S SAHARA CAMPAIGN AND BYSENDING
HIM TELEGRAM PLEDGING FIDELITY. PARTY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PALACE
APPEARED MARKEDLY CHANGED SINCE MEETING EARLY THIS YEAR DURING
WHICH THE KING'S NAME NOT MENTIONED ONCE.
NEUMANN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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